

REMARKS / ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-8, 10-12, 14-17, 19-20 and 22-28 remain pending in this application. Claims 9, 13, 18 and 21 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. New claims 23-28 have been added.

Priority

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's acknowledgment of the claim for priority and safe receipt of the priority document.

Specification

The specification has been amended to correct a minor informality. No new matter has been added.

35 U.S.C. §112

The claims have been amended to overcome the rejection under this section. As these changes are believed to be self-explanatory, no further comment is made herein. However, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if any further clarification is needed.

Appl. No. 10/649,725
Amendment dated May 5, 2006
Reply to Office Action of February 7, 2006

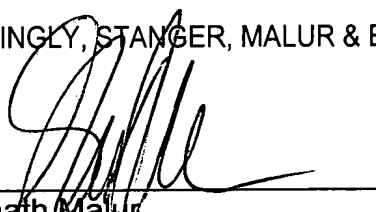
NIT-397

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Respectfully submitted,

MATTINGLY, STANGER, MALUR & BRUNDIDGE, P.C.

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